

SENATE RESOLUTION 138

By Gilbert

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Greene County Sheriff Terry Lynn Jones, District Attorney General Berkeley Bell, Jr., Criminal Court Judge James E. Beckner, and their staff for their meritorious service in the Lillelid murder case.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, the Lillelid murder case that shocked the people of Greene County and Tennessee was handled in a professional and expeditious manner from the arrest of the suspects to the sentencing phase; and

WHEREAS, there were no excessive continuances or redundancies in the proceedings or any abuse of the judicial process; all proceedings were carried out in a respectful and dignified manner; and

WHEREAS, the individuals involved in this investigation devoted countless hours in order that justice would be served; and

WHEREAS, numerous hours were devoted to investigating the crime scene, interviewing at least 180 witnesses and reviewing and compiling all the evidence collected; and

WHEREAS, the Court should be commended for its cooperation with the media and the allowance of cable television to cover the courtroom events, allowing all interested parties the opportunity to be privy to the proceedings and events surrounding the historical case; and

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WHEREAS, in addition, the parties followed the letter of the law and did not act on any political motivation or outside influence. As a result, expenses were kept to a minimum; and

WHEREAS, the final disposition of this case will save years of appeals regarding the guilt of the defendants, and the victim's families will be spared the prolonged agony of a full trial; and

WHEREAS, the sentences of the defendants shall serve as a deterrent to others in the State of Tennessee and should ultimately send the message that crime in this state is not worth the price of the inevitable and justified punishment; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Jones, District Attorney General Bell, Judge Beckner and their staff are perfect examples of citizens totally committed to the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and commend Greene County Sheriff Terry Lynn Jones, District Attorney General Berkeley Bell, Jr., Criminal Court Judge James E. Beckner and all of their staff for their meritorious service in the Lillelid murder case and salute their commitment to equality for all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.